UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1892
12 May 1995

## FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOMIG mandate until 12 January 1996, subject to review should mandate of CIS force in Georgia be changed.

+ Secretary-General meets in Paris with senior United Nations officials to discuss situation in former Yugoslavia; to undertake fundamental review of UNPROFOR's role in light of developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General discusses United Nations operations with President of France; has meetings with three African leaders.

+ UNPROFOR reports reduced military activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, except in Sarajevo; UNHCR says food situation in Bihac is disastrous.

+ Security Council reviews sanctions regime against Iraq; members say sanctions will not be lifted until Baghdad complies fully with all resolutions.

+ Disarmament Commission to hold 1995 session from 15 to 30 May; to conclude consideration of nuclear disarmament in framework of international peace and security.

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The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 12 January 1996. The extension is subject to review in the event of any changes that might be made in the mandate of the Commonwealth of Independent States peace-keeping force there. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 993 (1995).

The Council called on the parties to reach substantive progress in the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. It urged them to refrain from any unilateral actions which could complicate or hinder the political process aimed at an early and comprehensive political settlement.

For information media—not an official record

The Council reiterated its call to the Abkhaz side to accelerate the process of the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons. It called on the parties to improve their cooperation with UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force in order to provide a secure environment for those returning.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Paris with senior United Nations officials to discuss the deterioration of the situation in Croatia and developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting was attended by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier; and the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Major-General Rupert Smith.

In the light of the expiration of the Bosnian agreement on a cessation of hostilities, the subsequent escalation of fighting and increasing attacks on peace-keepers, it was decided that a fundamental review of UNPROFOR's role was required. To that end, the Secretary-General asked his Special Representative and the United Nations Commanders to study alternatives to respond to the new situation.

The Secretary-General will return to New York over the weekend, and will present an oral report to the Security Council early next week. The report requested by Council resolutions 982 (1995) and 987 (1995) will be submitted shortly thereafter.

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The Secretary-General met yesterday in Paris with French President Francois Mitterand. They discussed United Nations actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Angola and elsewhere. The President expressed encouragement for the Secretary-General in his efforts on behalf of world peace.

Following today's meeting on the former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General met with the Heads of State of Congo, Cameroon and Gabon. They were in Paris for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe.

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There has been an overall reduction in military activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, except in Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. Over 2,300 firing incidents were reported in the Bosnian capital over the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, there were more attacks against United Nations personnel. The Bosnian Serbs refused to allow a helicopter to evacuate the French peace-keeper critically wounded by a sniper yesterday. He was evacuated several hours later by a fixed-wing aircraft.

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The spokesman called attention to the "disastrous" food situation in Bihac, which has not been reached by UNHCR convoys for five weeks. The agency has sufficient supplies to meet only one-tenth of the food needs of the 155,000 people there. However, the Bosnian Serbs have given positive signals that they will allow two UNHCR convoys into Bihac next week.

The situation remained tense in all Sectors in Croatia, with sporadic firing incidents along cease-fire lines but no major escalation of military activity. However, the United Nations was having difficulty resupplying peace-keepers and patrols were being cut back because of fuel shortages.

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The Security Council met today to review the sanctions regime against Iraq, and made no changes to it. The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir David Hannay, told correspondents that Iraq had made no progress towards complying with relevant Council resolutions since the last sanctions review in March. He added that not a single voice had been raised in favour of the lifting of sanctions.

The Permanent Representative of the United States, Madeleine Albright, said Iraq's failure to meet its obligations left the Council with no choice but to keep the sanctions in place. Rather than comply with those resolutions, Iraq had chosen to defy the Council through a combination of "half-measures and outright deception". It had not fully disclosed its biological and chemical weapons programmes, had yet to return Kuwaiti property, and had continued its internal embargo against northern Iraq and its repression of the Shia.

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The Disarmament Commission will hold its 1995 session at Headquarters from 15 to 30 May. The Commission will conclude its consideration of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, as well as its review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

The Commission decided last month to reduce the duration of the session from three weeks to 11 days. It took that action because of such concurrent disarmament activities as the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty underway in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1893
15 May 1995

## MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council discusses situation in occupied Arab territories; Observer for Palestine says Israel must rescind land confiscation directives in Jerusalem; Israel says land policy does not contradict Declaration of Principles.

+ Secretary-General meets with Foreign Minister of Iraq; expresses regret at Iraqi decision not to accept Security Council resolution 986 (1995).

+ 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference concludes without agreement on final declaration; Chile becomes 179th State party to Treaty.

+ In message for International Day of Families, Secretary-General says peace, human rights and development all depend on tolerance.

+ International Conference on Former Yugoslavia reports there may have been unauthorized flights between Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; finds insufficient evidence to prove or disprove any cases.

+ States parties to Law of Sea Convention begin one-week session at Headquarters; to consider recommendations on arrangements to establish International Tribunal.

+ UNEP Governing Council begins eighteenth session in Nairobi; to address revitalization of Programme's role and functions.

+ United Nations aid worker released unharmed after week in captivity in southern Sudan.

+ DPI and International Public Relations Association to honour publicity campaigns from Canada, Turkey and United States.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council met today to continue its consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories. The Permanent Observer for Palestine said on Friday that the Council should order Israel to rescind land confiscation directives in East Jerusalem. It should also make Israel understand the importance of not repeating acts that violated international law. Israel must choose between an agreement with the Palestinian side or no agreement, "because the status of half-agreement is not acceptable and is absolutely untenable". The Palestinians were committed to the Declaration of Principles and other peace agreements in conformity with international law, he added.

The representative of Israel said the decision to expropriate land for construction in Jerusalem was based on a long-standing policy to ensure that development kept pace with the changes that were a natural feature of any living city. There was no contradiction between that policy and bilateral agreements Israel had signed, including the Declaration of Principles with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The United States representative said his country had publicly stated that the Israeli notice to expropriate land in Jerusalem was not particularly helpful to the peace process. The Council was not the appropriate forum for dealing with that issue, which was for the parties to the dispute to address. Debate in the Council would only distract attention from their efforts and have a negative impact on the peace process, he added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was back at Headquarters today, having returned from Paris over the weekend. This morning, he received Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Sahaf of Iraq, who explained why his Government had refused to implement Security Council resolution 986 (1995). That resolution permitted States to import up to $1 billion worth of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products every 90 days to meet humanitarian needs in Iraq.

The Foreign Minister said Iraq objected to the requirement that the larger share of the petroleum and petroleum products be shipped via the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline. It also objected to the modalities of distribution of humanitarian relief in three northern governorates.

The Secretary-General expressed his regret at Iraq's decision not to accept resolution 986. He strongly urged the Iraqi Government to reconsider its position and continue its cooperation with the United Nations to ensure that relevant Council resolutions were implemented.

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There were no winners or losers in the historic Review and Extension Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), according to Conference President Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka). He told the final meeting of the Conference on Friday that the Treaty

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itself had won, as it would continue in force indefinitely. He also announced that Chile had decided to adhere to the NPT, becoming the 179th State party.

The closing meeting was delayed by negotiations aimed at agreement on a review of compliance with the NPT. Tadeusz Strulak (Poland) said that despite strenuous efforts to achieve a consensus document on the review aspect of the Conference, the Drafting Committee had been unable to agree on certain sections. If agreement had been reached, a consolidated report would have been issued as a final declaration of the Conference.

By the terms of three decisions and a resolution adopted without a vote on 11 May, the Conference indefinitely extended the Treaty; adopted the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; acted to strengthen the Treaty review process; and called for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

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Tolerance supports all of the goals of the United Nations -- encouraging peace, protecting human rights, and promoting social and economic development, according to the Secretary-General. In a message for the International Day of Families, he said tolerance grew from the understanding that humanity superseded differences in race, nationality or gender. This year, the Day focused on the family's role in promoting social harmony, with the theme "Tolerance begins in the Family".

The importance of tolerance had been made tragically clear in recent years, the Secretary-General continued. Political and economic insecurity had led many to seek refuge in narrow racial and ethnic groupings. Inter-ethnic rivalries had caused social marginalization, suffering and bloodshed around the globe. The key to preventing such crises in the future lay within families. "If tolerance is fostered within the family, it is likely to prevail in society at large, he concluded.

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There may have been unauthorized flights across the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. However, in a report issued today, they said there was insufficient evidence to conclusively prove or disprove each case.

The International Conference conducted an inquiry into over 100 unexplained radar contacts reported since last October by United Nations observers based at Surcin airfield near Belgrade. The observers said the contacts indicated helicopters crossing the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Government of the Federal Republic denied that such flights had taken place.

The report said the radar at Surcin airport had certain shortcomings when used to detect distant targets flying over difficult terrain. It concluded

that the International Conference mission did not have the capability to effectively monitor the closure of the air border, particularly at its current staffing level.

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States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea began a one-week session at Headquarters today. They are considering recommendations on arrangements to establish the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea -- the central mechanism of the compulsory dispute-settlement system set up by the Convention -- to be based in Hamburg, Germany. The recommendations were made by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

In addition to considering the Preparatory Commission's recommendations, the States parties are expected to take up the other remaining items on an agenda adopted last November. Those items include the adoption of rules of procedure for the meeting of the States parties, the election of four Vice-Presidents, organization of work and the appointment of a nine-member Credentials Committee.

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The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) today began its eighteenth session in Nairobi, Kenya. Over the next two weeks, the 58-member Council will address issues pertaining to the revitalization of UNEP's role and functions. It will consider the changes needed to more effectively implement the international environmental agenda, within the context of the agreements reached at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

"The Council is meeting at a time when multilateralism is under severe stress, the world suffers from summit fatigue and development assistance scarcity, and interest on environmental concerns seems to be waning at both global and national levels", according to UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell. "The environmental movement has had some moments of glory, some due to the efforts of UNEP over the past two decades. But the scope of change requires us to deal with the real causes of environmental destruction and confront the forces of our own making that are destroying the planet".

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Romy Delos Santos, the Filipino aid worker abducted last week in southern Sudan, has been released unharmed, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Santos was one of nine United Nations staff workers -- two international and two local staff members, as well as five local United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff -- abducted while working for Operation Lifeline Sudan. The other eight were released unharmed after a few days.

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The Body Shop Canada will receive the 1994 United Nations Grand Award for outstanding achievement in public relations, for its intensive national campaign to stop violence against women. The award will be presented at a private luncheon at Headquarters on Wednesday, 17 May. Two campaigns from Turkey and the United States will receive honourable mention -- Rama Cansuyu (Lifeblood Project), an environmental success story; and Kentucky Fried Chicken/DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) for its DARE to Make a Difference contest.

The awards are given each year, in conjunction with the International Public Relations Association, to recognize excellence in public relations campaigns that address priority issues of the United Nations. They will be presented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, and a member of the Association's Board, Lee Levitt.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1894
16 May 1995

## TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says peace-keepers cannot implement mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to expiration of cease-fire and escalation of hostilities; UNPROFOR must be maintained, but situation requires changes on ground.

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia deplores outbreak of fighting in Sarajevo; appeals to parties to begin dialogue under auspices of UNPROFOR.

+ Croatian Government signs status of forces agreement with UNCRO; International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia sends investigative team to Croatia.

+ Security Council concludes discussion of situation in occupied Arab territories; Sudan says Israel should realize peace cannot be achieved through unilateral decisions based on use of force.

+ Secretary-General says situation in Tajikistan remains tense, but results of Moscow talks justify United Nations efforts and maintenance of UNMOT.

+ Disarmament Commission holds exchange of views on specific disarmament items.

+ United Nations police adviser shot dead in apparent robbery attempt in Angola.

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United Nations peace-keepers are unable to implement Security Council resolutions relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the expiration of the cease-fire and the escalation of the confrontation there, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He told correspondents at Headquarters today that the peace-keepers were increasingly coming under attack, and that the situation required changes on the ground. He made those comments after briefing the Council on the situation in the former Yugoslavia,

following his meeting with senior United Nations officials in Paris on Friday. He also dealt with Angola, Burundi, Georgia, Rwanda, Tajikistan and East Timor.

The Secretary-General stressed that he was determined to maintain the United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia, and to safeguard the peace-keepers there. He noted that more than 160 United Nations troops had been killed, and more than 1,400 injured, in the region. France -- the largest contributor -- had sustained the most casualties. It was important to contain the fatigue of troop-contributing countries and to avoid the "Somalia syndrome". He said that he had asked the officials on the ground for recommendations, and that he would report in turn to the Council on what action should be taken.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has deplored the outbreak of fighting in Sarajevo today, saying it set back the clock in the search for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He appealed to the leaders of the parties to the conflict not to squander what chances remained for peaceful dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The Special Representative stressed that there was an alternative to the military option that the parties seemed to have chosen -- they could cooperate with United Nations efforts to restore peace step by step. The first step must be the immediate silencing of all weapons, followed by the normalization of the humanitarian aid operation to bring much-needed relief to the civilian population. Finally, serious talks must begin on shaping a viable long-term political solution.

The latest fighting in Sarajevo started when Bosnian Government forces fired four mortar rounds into a Bosnian Serb barracks, prompting intense firing in return, according to a United Nations spokesman. During the day, a Russian peace-keeper was seriously wounded, while a French peace-keeper was slightly wounded, and an unmanned armoured personnel carrier was destroyed. Meanwhile, the French soldier shot by a sniper in Sarajevo last week died yesterday.

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The Croatian Government has signed a status of forces agreement with the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He described the signing as a very positive development.

Meanwhile, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has sent a four-person team to Croatia on a two-week mission. The team will investigate the recent events in Western Slavonia and the shelling of Zagreb with cluster bombs.

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The Security Council today concluded its three-day discussion of the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Several speakers said the Council must reject Israel's attempts to effect a fait accompli in occupied Jerusalem prior to negotiations on its status next year. They called on the Council to take action to ensure that Israel reversed its recent decision to expropriate Arab land in East Jerusalem.

The representative of Mauritania strongly condemned Israel's decision, saying the successes of the peace process depended on the political will of the two parties to comply with their commitments. Unilateral acts could only sow suspicion and doubt, and dim the hopes of the people of the region for peace. The Sudanese representative said Israel had one objective: the annexation of East Jerusalem and the declaration of a unified Jerusalem as its capital. Israel sought to empty East Jerusalem of its inhabitants through land confiscations and the building of settlements. The Council must take decisive action to convince Israel that peace could not be achieved through unilateral decisions based upon the use of force.

"The patience of Arab and Islamic peoples is running out as they witness daily the Israeli arrogance and the Israeli persistence in humiliating Arabs and Muslims in defiance of all resolutions of the Security Council, because Israel is exempt from implementing them, thanks to the biased position of the United States", the representative of Libya said. He cautioned that the double standard being employed by a permanent member of the Council might drive people to reconsider the usefulness of a United Nations that had lost its credibility.

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The situation in Tajikistan remains tense, particularly on the border with Afghanistan, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 12 May, he said several factors had combined to create serious difficulties for the political process being promoted by the United Nations there. Those factors included the Government's position regarding the deployment of its troops to Gorno-Badakshan; the manner in which it had carried through the elections on 26 February; the opposition's refusal to participate in elections even if they were postponed; its de facto withdrawal from the Joint Commission; and the escalation of hostilities in April.

The Secretary-General noted that the Tajik parties had agreed during recent consultations in Moscow to extend the current cease-fire agreement until 26 May. They had also agreed to hold the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty beginning on 22 May and to include on the agenda the fundamental institutional issues and consolidation of the statehood of Tajikistan. Meanwhile, the Russian authorities had recognized the validity of the cease-fire agreement for their forces in the country. Those results provided grounds for continuing United Nations efforts and maintaining the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), he concluded.

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The Disarmament Commission has begun its 11-day session with an exchange of views on specific disarmament items. The representative of Japan said it would be a mistake for the Commission to focus solely on nuclear issues, given that the armed conflicts of the past 50 years had been fought largely with conventional weapons. The issue of arms transfers concerned all countries and was closely related not only to a country's political and security situation, but also to its economic needs, she said.

Several representatives cautioned that any final recommendations from the Commission on international arms transfers should be without prejudice to the right of States to equip and maintain armed forces for the purpose of defence. On the issue of nuclear disarmament, the representative of India said the Commission should not be satisfied with reiterating the goals of the Declaration of the Third Disarmament Decade, but should give specific suggestions. Recent disarmament steps constituted only a technical management of the arms race and were insufficient, he said.

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A United Nations police adviser -- Raul Ruben Aguirre of Argentina -- was shot dead in Luanda, Angola, yesterday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. An investigation has been launched into the incident, although it appears that Mr. Aguirre was killed during an attempted robbery with no political motive.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1895
17 May 1995

## WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to arrange for full deployment of UNCRO after withdrawal of Croatian parties from zones of separation; demands parties withdraw all troops without delay and refrain from military actions that could escalate situation.

+ United States vetoes Security Council draft resolution calling on Government of Israel to rescind orders for expropriation of land in East Jerusalem.

+ Secretary-General says United Nations is counting on ECOWAS Summit in Abuja to give new impetus to Liberian peace process.

+ UNPROFOR reports heavy fighting in Sarajevo and clashes elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Special Representative Akashi meets with Croatian Serb leadership in Knin.

+ United Nations Command says effective communications between opposing forces on Korean peninsula are vital for maintenance of peace.

+ WHO issues advice on Ebola haemorrhagic fever for travellers returning from Zaire.

+ UNEP Executive Director says Programme plays key role as custodian of global environment.

+ James Moody of United States to be next Vice-President of International Fund for Agricultural Development.

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The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the full deployment of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), after the withdrawal of the troops of the Croatian parties from the zones of separation. It demanded

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For information media—not an official record

that the parties complete the withdrawal of all troops without delay, and refrain from further violations of the zones. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 994 (1995).

The Council stressed the need for the early establishment of UNCRO's authority in accordance with its mandate. It demanded that the status and mandate of the Operation, and the safety and security of its personnel, be respected. The Council demanded also that the Croatian Government respect fully the rights of the Serb population in conformity with internationally recognized standards.

The Council demanded that the parties refrain from taking any further military measures or actions that could lead to the escalation of the situation. It warned that in the event of failure to comply with that demand, it would consider further steps to ensure such compliance. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report within two weeks on the implementation of resolution 994 (1995), including on the modalities for the implementation of UNCRO's mandate in Sector West.

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The United States today vetoed a draft resolution by which the Security Council would have called on the Government of Israel to rescind orders for the expropriation of 53 hectares of land in East Jerusalem. The other fourteen members of the Council voted in favour of the draft.

Speaking after the vote, United States Permanent Representative Madeleine Albright said she had cast the veto reluctantly but without hesitation on an issue of principle. She stressed that the only path to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East was direct talks between the parties. The Council had sought to declare itself on a permanent status issue -- Jerusalem -- in violation of that principle. The Israeli expropriation notices were unhelpful to the peace process, but the draft would have compounded the problem by injecting the Council into the issue.

The veto was last exercised in December 1994, when the Russian Federation voted against a draft on the transport of goods between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegonia. The United States last used the veto in May 1990.

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The United Nations is counting on the Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to give a new impetus to the Liberian peace process, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in a message to the Summit, which is taking place in Abuja, Nigeria. The message was delivered on his behalf by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

The Secretary-General said the conflict in Liberia had devastated the country and threatened the political and economic stability of its

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neighbours. He stressed the need for general disarmament of the warring factions and the establishment of democratic institutions through genuine elections. The international community hoped the Summit would find a practical way to ensure compliance with the arms embargo imposed against Liberia by the Security Council. Neighbouring States should use their influence to ensure that the Liberian faction and political leaders adhered to the provisions of the Accra Agreement.

The United Nations Observer Mission for Liberia (UNOMIL) and the ECOWAS Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG) provided a unique example of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization in a peace-keeping operation, the Secretary-General went on to say. He assured the ECOWAS Heads of State of his full support for their efforts, and expressed encouragement for their objectives.

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There was heavy fighting in Sarajevo again today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb forces took three Government-held trenches on the high ground overlooking the city centre, and the fighting may have been spurred by Government attempts to regain that territory.

Last night, Bosnian Serb forces entered a United Nations weapons collection point and tried to prepare some mortars for firing, the spokesman said. Ukrainian soldiers resisted and some shots were fired, and the Bosnian Serbs left without firing the mortars. Meanwhile, there were clashes elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seventeen detonations were reported in the Bihac pocket this morning, probably in response to two Bosnian Government offensives there.

The situation in Croatia was stable, and there were withdrawals of Government forces in the zones of separation in some Sectors. However, the situation in Sector East was deteriorating continuously, with threats to United Nations personnel and property. As a result, United Nations civilian police abandoned another observation post in the Sector.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was in Knin today for talks with Croatian Serb leaders, the spokesman continued. Mr. Akashi reviewed the military situation in the zones of separation and discussed the future mandate of the United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO).

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The maintenance of effective communications between the opposing forces on the Korean peninsula is vital to preclude possible incidents and prevent the resumption of hostilities, according to the latest report by the United Nations Command (UNC). The report provides a synopsis of events in the area in 1994, and their impact on the Command's efforts in maintaining the Korean Armistice Agreement.

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Both sides must fully cooperate to preserve the existing means of communication through the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), which was an integral part of the armistice, the report said. The United Nations Command would continue its efforts to implement the Armistice Agreement, and thereby contribute to a stable environment conducive to south-north dialogue and the ultimate goal of a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

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Given the unlikelihood of any patient with Ebola haemorrhagic fever leaving Zaire, the World Health Organization (WHO) has not recommended that special measures be instituted for passenger aircraft arriving from the country. Persons with Ebola become infectious for others only when they are extremely ill and already haemorrhaging. It is highly unlikely that such persons would try to travel on an international flight, and unlikely that they would be permitted to board if they did try.

However, WHO said that a very small number of individuals -- principally health-care workers and journalists -- would be returning to their home countries after contact with Ebola patients in Zaire. Unless those passengers were obviously ill, no travel restrictions were required, but they should inform health officials at their destination of their exposure history. If they fell ill during the 21-day incubation period for Ebola, they should seek immediate care and notify the authorities.

WHO advised other passengers leaving Zaire to notify a doctor immediately if an illness developed within three weeks of their departure date. In particular, any fever should be reported at once and the physician informed that the patient has travelled from Zaire. The incubation period for Ebola haemorrhagic fever is up to 21 days.

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There is absolutely no doubt that the world needs the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a custodian of the environment, according to UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell. She made that comment as she opened the eighteenth session of the Programme's Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ms. Dowdeswell went on to say that UNEP had to consolidate and rationalize its broad range of activities. Consequently, an integrated plan had been prepared to tackle four challenges: sustainable management and use of natural resources; sustainable production and consumption; a better environment for human health and well-being; and globalization and the environment.

Meanwhile, UNEP's Industry and Environment Office has issued two reports: "Environmental Management in the Electronic Industry" and "Cleaner Production in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Region".

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The President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Fawzi Al-Sultan, has announced that James Moody will be the Fund's next Vice-President. Mr. Moody, a former United States Congressman, will assume his new post later this year.

Mr. Moody is currently Vice-President of the public policy consulting firm, Chamber Associates Inc., in Washington, D.C. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations and the United States Committee for Refugees, and is a visiting professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1896
18 May 1995

## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNPROFOR reports 11 attacks on peace-keepers amid heavy fighting in Sarajevo; UNCRO says Croatian Government and Croatian Serb soldiers remain in zones of separation.

+ Secretary-General discusses developments in Middle East, including situation in East Jerusalem, with Crown Prince of Jordan.

+ Somalia's political parties remain at impasse over issue of national reconciliation; security situation is volatile, with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting.

+ Organization of Islamic Conference urges United Nations to respond to deteriorating situation in Kashmir, citing threat to regional peace and security.

+ International commission of inquiry into events at Rwanda's Kibeho camp expects to complete its work today.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information says DPI and Committee on Information enjoy very close relationship; highlights professionalism of DPI staff.

+ Special Representative for Angola travels on newly-reopened road from Luanda to Lobito for sixteenth session of Joint Commission.

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There has been more heavy fighting in Sarajevo, with 11 direct attacks on United Nations personnel, a spokesman for the Organization said today. Two peace-keepers -- one French and one Russian -- were injured yesterday. Another two Russian peace-keepers were injured this morning by an anti-personnel mine. There was also fighting around Bihac, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) again warned that over 150,000 residents of the enclave faced starvation if food convoys were not allowed in soon.

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For information media—not an official record

Meanwhile, the situation in Croatia was described as stable but tense. Croatian Government and Croatian Serb soldiers remained deployed in the zones of separation in Sectors North, South and East. Two United Nations helicopters came under fire in Croatia yesterday, one from Serb positions in Sector East.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had an unproductive meeting with the Croatian Serb leadership in Knin yesterday, the spokesman continued. The leadership refused to discuss the military situation in the zones of separation or the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) until the status of the Serbs in Sector West was clarified.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, according to a United Nations spokesman. They discussed a number of matters, including the future of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Jordan's support of United Nations peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere.

They also discussed recent developments in the Middle East, including the situation in East Jerusalem and questions of regional security and economic development. The Crown Prince expressed his satisfaction that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would hold its regional conference in Amman.

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The Somali National Alliance (SNA) and the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) are still at an impasse over the issue of national reconciliation, a United Nations spokesman said today. The security situation in Somalia remains volatile, with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting, mainly in the north-west and in Mogadishu.

The United Nations political office is currently in Nairobi pending clarification of the necessary conditions for its relocation to the Somali capital, the spokesman noted. However, two planned preliminary visits for consultations have been cancelled because of objections by the two main Somali political leaders, General Mohamed Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi. Meanwhile, United Nations humanitarian operations have been continuing throughout the country.

The Secretary-General's Special Political Adviser, Chinmaya Gharekhan, recently briefed the Security Council on developments in Somalia, and the Secretary-General has said he will return to the question shortly.

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The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has urged the Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the threat to regional peace and

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security posed by the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, particularly by the destruction of the Charar-i-Sharif Mosque and Shrine. It also appealed to the President of the Security Council to take note of the situation and to bring the matter to the attention of Council members for appropriate action. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir made those appeals in a letter dated 16 May.

The Contact Group also urged the Indian Government to withdraw its forces from Charar-i-Sharif and to take immediate steps to mitigate the effects of their desecration of the Mosque and Shrine. It called on the Government to desist from repeating such actions and to respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir in the interest of regional peace and security.

* * *

The international commission of inquiry into the recent events at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda is expected to complete its work today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The commission will submit a report to the President of Rwanda and the Secretary-General. The report will be made public.

The commission has been seeking to determine why camps for internally displaced Rwandese were closed down; if there was sufficient consultation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) before the closures; if ethnicity was a root cause of the problem; how the camps were closed; who was responsible for the events at Kibeho; and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

* * *

The Department of Public Information (DPI) enjoys a very close working relationship with the Committee on Information, according to the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar. In an interview today with United Nations Radio, he said the quality of the relationship had been highlighted during the Committee's seventeenth session. The Department and the Committee had met regularly and had reached a common view on important issues and problems before the session began.

The DPI had mobilized its resources effectively, and its staff members had worked together in order to perform their functions, Mr. Sanbar continued. "We have established strongly, and consolidated, our professional credibility", he said. "We are professionals reaching out to the public, doing a professional job and working closely with the media representatives as well as with delegations".

Mr. Sanbar pointed out that the Department had reached a very wide audience through electronic media such as the Internet. He also stressed the importance of radio coverage of peace-keeping matters, saying the DPI should be involved in peace-keeping operations from the very beginning. Radio was the most effective and practical component of the Department's information activities in that area, notwithstanding certain technical and financial limitations.

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The Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, today led a convoy of 40 cars from Luanda to Lobito to demonstrate the demining and reopening of the main road between the two cities, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Beye also attended the sixteenth session of the Joint Commission in Lobito. He was accompanied by the delegations to the Joint Commission and the representatives of the three observer States.

The Joint Commission discussed free circulation of people and goods, demining and continued repair of roads and bridges, the spokesman noted. Mr. Beye and those accompanying him were expected to return to the Angolan capital tomorrow.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1897
19 May 1995

## FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls on Tajik parties to extend current cease-fire agreement; stresses need for substantive progress at fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty.

+ Commission of Inquiry concludes Kibeho tragedy was not result of planned action by Rwandan authorities to kill certain group of people, nor was it unpreventable accident.

+ Secretary-General and United States Secretary of Defense review United Nations peace-keeping operations; discuss proposed changes in role and deployment of peace-keepers in former Yugoslavia.

+ Special Representative Akashi says Croatian Army is complying in general terms with direction to remove troops from Zone of Separation; total withdrawal is only way to further stabilize volatile situation.

+ UNPROFOR reports decrease in military activity in Sarjevo; UNHCR food convoy reaches Bihac after six-week break.

+ Internal auditors from United Nations and multilateral financial institutions to begin twenty-sixth meeting at Headquarters on Monday.

+ United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues to be held in Nagasaki from 12 to 16 June.

* * *

The Security Council today called on the Tajik Government and opposition to substantially extend the Cease-fire Agreement of 17 September 1994. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council also called on them to achieve substantive progress during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, which will begin in Almaty on 22 May. It stressed the need for progress on fundamental institutional issues and consolidation of the statehood of Tajikistan, as defined in the agenda agreed upon in Moscow last month.

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For information media—not an official record

The Council expressed concern over the actions of both sides in the past three months, which posed obstacles to the peace process. The parties must resolve the conflict and confirm, by taking practical steps, their commitment to achieve national reconciliation through peaceful political means on the basis of mutual concessions and compromises.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's observation in his report of 12 May that grounds existed for continuing United Nations efforts and maintaining the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). It also recalled its view that extension of the cease-fire was necessary for that.

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The tragedy at the Kibeho camp last month was not the result of a planned action by the Rwandan authorities to kill a certain group of people, according to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry. However, in a report issued in Kigali, the Commission said the killings were not an unpreventable accident. It concluded that unarmed internally displaced persons had been subjected to "arbitrary deprivation of life" in violation of human rights and humanitarian law committed by Rwandan military personnel. Such violations had also been committed by armed elements among the internally displaced persons themselves.

The report recognized the legitimate interests of the Rwandan Government and of the international community to have the displaced persons camps closed, for reasons of national security and to facilitate recovery from last year's genocide. It recognized the efforts made by the United Nations and the Government to keep the situation at Kibeho under control. However, it also expressed regret that United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations had not been able to contribute more efficiently to the speedy evacuation of displaced persons from the camp.

The Commission called on the Rwandan authorities to carry out an analysis of the mistakes made in the closure of the camps, and an impartial investigation of individual responsibilities within its armed forces for any other factors which might have contributed to the tragedy. High priority should be given to improving the capability of State and local authorities to react adequately and within the internationally recognized framework of human rights and of humanitarian law to situations of social tension. The Commission recommended that the international community continue encouraging and assisting Rwanda in its efforts to achieve justice, national reconciliation and reconstruction.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today at Headquarters with United States Secretary of Defense William Perry and, along with their aides, reviewed United Nations peace-keeping operations. Mr. Perry expressed his continuing support for the Organization and its peace-keeping efforts.

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The Secretary-General and the Defense Secretary focused on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, according to a United Nations spokesman. They discussed proposed changes in the role and deployment of the peace-keepers there, and the role of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power in support of United Nations operations. They also dealt with the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), and agreed that the transition from the Multinational Force had been smooth and that the operation was going well.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today reported that the Croatian Army was complying in general terms with the Security Council's direction that it remove its troops from the Zone of Separation. However, he pointed out that some 760 Croatian soldiers and 50 special police remained in the Zone, and urged that the withdrawal be completed without delay.

Mr. Akashi noted "a positive desire at the Government level" to respond to the Council's wishes, although that desire had not been uniformly reflected on the ground. While there had been a further withdrawal from Sector North today, the Croatian Army maintained a heavy presence just outside the Zone in Sector South, and a small one at key positions within. He said total withdrawal was the only way to restore the integrity of the cease-fire agreement and to further stabilize a volatile situation. The Government should honour its commitment to the common goal of an end to the fighting and a peaceful search for a negotiated solution.

* * *

There has been a considerable decrease in military activity in Sarjevo, a United Nations spokesman said today. There was some heavy-weapon and tank firing in parts of the city, but the airport remained open and handled four United Nations flights today. However, both Bosnian parties continued to impose restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel between the city and the airport, and to prevent the rotation of peace-keepers at observation posts.

Meanwhile, fighting continued around Bihac, and the town was again shelled from Bosnian Serb positions, the spokesman reported. A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) food convoy reached the pocket after a break of six weeks, although soldiers loyal to Fikret Abdic forced it to leave around 24 metric tons of food in Velika Kladusa.

* * *

The twenty-sixth meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions will begin at Headquarters on Monday. Heads of Audit Services from 29 organizations will attend the three-day gathering, which will be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations, Karl Paschke, will host and chair the meeting. He will also deliver a keynote speech on the role of his recently established office. Mr. Paschke has launched a major effort to increase the impact and clout of internal control mechanisms at the United Nations.

Meeting participants will discuss a wide range of topics, including the emerging role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; development of an effect system of accountability and responsibility; auditing aspects of United Nations peace-keeping missions, procurement and inventory policies; and ways of increasing cooperation among oversight bodies of the United Nations system.

* * *

"Disarmament in the last half century and its future prospects" will be the main theme of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, to be held in Nagasaki, Japan, from 12 to 16 June. It will be opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding.

Hosted by the Prefecture and City of Nagasaki and financed by the Government of Japan, the Conference is being convened by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. Participants will review the progress made by the international community in the field of arms control and disarmament, and search for common approaches to setting new priorities for the future.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1898
22 May 1995

## MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council says conditions for modification of sanctions regime against Bosnian Serbs have not been met.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of International Conference report.

+ UNPROFOR says situation in Sarajevo remains tense; Bosnian Serbs remove two artillery pieces from weapons collection point.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNDOF mandate for six months; says Force performs functions effectively with cooperation of Israel and Syria.

+ UNICEF Executive Director says Fund must respond quickly, strongly and with clarity to emergencies.

+ States Parties to Law of Sea Convention conclude five-day session by adopting rules of procedure.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.89 billion as of 15 May; $1.02 billion owed to regular budget and $1.87 billion owed to peace-keeping.

+ International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda receives pledges worth $6 million.

+ UNEP honours 27 individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

* * *

The Security Council today reviewed the sanctions regime imposed on the Bosnian Serbs by resolution 942 (1994), and concluded that conditions for its modification had not been met. Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee (France) told correspondents that last week's developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, made it all the more necessary that the

Bosnian Serbs accept the Contact Group's plan as a starting point for negotiations.

The sanctions imposed by resolution 942 (1994) apply to "all activities of an economic nature", with certain exceptions on humanitarian grounds. The Council said they would be reconsidered if the Bosnian Serbs accepted the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group.

* * *

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between it and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report issued today, they also certified that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries during the past 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 18 May.

The Co-Chairmen called attention to the stringent financial situation of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On 6 March, the Mission had 194 international personnel covering 19 border crossing-points. Due to the non-payment or late payment of contributions, it had only 152 as of 16 May. The Mission needed at least 250 international personnel to enhance the effectiveness of its work, the report went on to say.

* * *

The situation in Sarajevo remained tense today, and a large number of firing incidents were reported, according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb soldiers this morning removed two artillery pieces from a weapons collection point at Poljine. French peace-keepers attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the removal of the artillery pieces.

The spokesman noted that the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, would meet with troop contributors at Headquarters on Wednesday to discuss military aspects of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Meanwhile, the situation in Croatia was stable, although some Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops remained in the Zone of Separation, the spokesman said. There were severe restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel in Sectors North and East.

Meanwhile, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Richard Goldstone, visited Zagreb today. He met with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Croatian Foreign Minister. A team from the International Tribunal is currently in Croatia to investigate

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recent events in Western Slavonia and the shelling of Zagreb with cluster bombs. Justice Goldstone was expected to meet with the team to review its work.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) be extended for six months to 30 November. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria. In a report dated 17 May, he said that UNDOF performed its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties, and that its continued presence was essential.

The situation in the Middle East was potentially dangerous despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the Secretary-General continued. It was likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

* * *

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today began its annual session at Headquarters. In her opening address, newly appointed Executive Director Carol Bellamy stressed that UNICEF must respond quickly, strongly, efficiently and with clarity to emergencies. It must respond not only when those emergencies arose, but as an ongoing feature of the current global environment. She said the Fund must not weaken its existing programmes or divert resources from longer-term development efforts, which were the most cost-efficient investment in conflict and disaster prevention.

During 1994, UNICEF cooperated in programmes in 149 countries. This included support to 18 programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. Total programme expenditure reached $801 million ($397 million from general resources and $404 million from supplementary funds). That figure represented a decrease of $3 million from 1993, and included a decrease in programme expenditures for emergency assistance.

* * *

The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has concluded its five-day session by adopting its rules of procedure. It also requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft budget by 1 September for the initial phase of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The next Meeting will be held from 27 November to 1 December to consider the draft budget.

Meeting President Satya Nandan (Fiji) said he had appointed nine States parties to the Credentials Committee: Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Malta, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

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Regarding practical arrangements to establish the International Tribunal, he said its composition and Chambers would be considered at a date closer to the election of the Tribunal's members scheduled to be held in August 1996. The United States had stated its intention to nominate a candidate to the Tribunal; Philippines had actually made its nomination.

* * *

As of 15 May, Member States owed the United Nations $2.89 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.02 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.87 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $527 million to the regular budget and $650 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed $41 million to the regular budget and $558 million to peace-keeping.

* * *

The Trust Fund for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has received pledges worth $6 million, Prosecutor Richard Goldstone announced in Kigali on Friday. He said the money would allow the Tribunal to become operational very quickly.

Justice Goldstone also received commitments for the secondment of investigators to the Tribunal. Thirty-three investigators are currently available, although a total of 100 are needed.

* * *

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized the commitment of 27 individuals and organizations to the cause of environmental protection by electing them to its Global 500 Roll of Honour. They will be officially honoured at a special award ceremony in Pretoria on 5 June -- hosted by UNEP and the Government of South Africa -- as part of this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The awards are given out every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the protection of the environment.

Meanwhile, UNEP has signed an agreement of cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in the field of environmental law. The agreement forms the third annex to a Framework Agreement of Cooperation concluded last March. It covers a wide range of activities, including development and codification of international environmental law; support to international environmental conventions; services to developing countries in the development of national environmental legislation; management of environmental law information; and legal training.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1899
23 May 1995

## TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNCRO says situation in Croatia is stable, but troop movements into and out of Zone of Separation continue.

+ Decolonization remains unfinished business despite great success, Chairman tells Subcommittee on Small Territories.

+ States Parties adopt resolution to amend Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

+ Committee on Rights of Child begins ninth session in Geneva by adopting agenda.

+ World Environment Day 1995 to honour fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

+ United Nations University to hold Fourth Global Environmental Forum in Osaka on Thursday.

* * *

The situation in Croatia remained stable today, although there was some movement of Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops into and out of the Zone of Separation, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that there had been six flights by Government aircraft into Sector North. In Sector East, the number of incoming refugees from Western Slavonia reached 4,500 today. Meanwhile, the United Nations sent a strong letter of protest to the Croatian police chief in Sector West regarding restrictions on access there.

The situation in Sarajevo was somewhat quieter today, the spokesman said, although two people were killed by Bosnian Serb snipers and a third person was killed by shellfire. A vehicle belonging to United Nations military observers was hijacked and stolen by Bosnian Serb soldiers. However, the Bosnian Serbs returned one of the two artillery pieces removed yesterday from a weapons collection point at Poljine.

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For information media—not an official record

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Despite great success, decolonization remains unfinished business, Chairman Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) told the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance yesterday. He said decolonization acquired special meaning in light of both the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. He made those comments as the Subcommittee began its two-week session at Headquarters.

The Chairman said the Subcommittee's forthcoming work would be greatly influenced by the target date of the year 2000 for the eradication of colonialism, as well as by the changing global and regional political environment. The Special Decolonization Committee continued to regard cooperation with the administering Powers to be of paramount importance and stood ready to cooperate with them in safeguarding the interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territory.

The Subcommittee is considering reports on Anguilla, American Samoa, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

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The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has decided to amend article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. That provision concerns meetings of the expert Committee which monitors implementation of the Convention. Under the terms of a resolution adopted by consensus, it would be revised to allow the Committee to normally meet annually to consider national reports of States parties on their implementation of the Convention.

The resolution recommended that the Assembly note with approval the action of the States parties at its fiftieth session later this year. The amendment would enter into force following consideration by the Assembly and acceptance by a two-thirds majority of the States parties.

* * *

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has begun its ninth session in Geneva by adopting its agenda and hearing a statement by Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. Mr. Fall highlighted the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the end of 1995. While there were currently 174 States parties to the Convention, and signs that other States were considering ratification, it was still too early to relax efforts towards universality. He called for the strengthening of relationships between the various human rights treaty bodies so that a

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greater synergy could be achieved within the United Nations human rights system by the year 2000.

In her opening address, Chairman Hoda Badran said that if financial assistance were not increased, the Committee would have trouble coping with the large backlog of States parties' reports. She hoped that the Centre for Human Rights would respond to its request for increased assistance.

* * *

World Environment Day will be celebrated around the world on 5 June in order to focus attention on environmental action and awareness. With the theme of "We the Peoples, United for the Global Environment", the Day will also honour the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary.

World Environment Day was established by the General Assembly in 1972. Each year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chooses a theme and selects a capital city as the main venue for the international celebrations. The venue this year is Pretoria, South Africa.

The first major event planned in the week-long series of activities in South Africa will be an interfaith celebration led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Other planned activities include a festival with an environment theme, an art exhibit on the environment, and a symposium on South Africa's biological diversity.

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The United Nations University (UNU) will hold its Fourth Global Environmental Forum, on the subject of "Population, Land Management and Environmental Change", on Thursday in Osaka, Japan. The Forum started in 1991 as an international gathering of leading researchers and experts from all continents to discuss specific issues related to global environmental change.

The Forum will report on the University's collaborative research project on population, land management and environmental change. The project involves field work in key agro-ecological zones of tropical and sub-tropical areas. It aims to understand the dynamic interactions between population and environment, which affect land management at the global, regional and local levels.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1900
24 May 1995

## WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia demands prompt cease-fire after outbreak of heavy fighting in Sarajevo; warns Bosnian parties not to underestimate gravity of situation.

+ General Assembly adopts resolution on organization of speakers list for Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Meeting; elects judges to International Tribunal for Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General meets with senior United Nations officials to review Guatemala peace process and activities of MINUGUA.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend MINURSO mandate for four months; says Western Sahara referendum could take place early next year if voter identification proceeds rapidly.

+ Antonio Pedauye of Spain appointed as Head of Mission of UNPROFOR; Henryk Sokalski of Poland to be Civilian Head of Mission of UNPREDEP; Khaled Yassir named as Deputy Special Representative for Angola.

+ Tajik Government and opposition extend current cease-fire agreement for three months.

+ WHO reports no new cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Zaire since 21 May; puts total of deaths at 101.

* * *

Heavy fighting broke out in Sarajevo again today, leading Special Representative Yasushi Akashi to demand a prompt cease-fire and full compliance with the February 1994 agreement on heavy weapons. He said the fighting violated the safe-area and exclusion-zone regimes and endangered the lives of innocent civilians and United Nations personnel. He noted that weapons had been removed from weapons collection points or, in some cases, fired from them.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

"This makes a series of extremely dangerous and volatile escalations that cannot be tolerated", Mr. Akashi said. He reminded the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs of the potentially serious consequences of non-compliance, saying the gravity of the situation should not be underestimated.

In another development, the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, today briefed the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The General Assembly this morning approved the organization of the list of speakers for its Special Commemorative Meeting on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, to be held from 22 to 24 October. It acted without a vote on a draft resolution submitted by the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary.

Heads of State will be accorded first priority, followed by vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, heads of government, highest ranking officials of the Holy See and Switzerland as observer States and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, ministers, permanent representatives and other observers. The order of the list to choose meeting and speaker slots will be determined in a drawing of names by the Secretary-General or his representative on 7 June.

Also this morning, the Assembly elected three judges to the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Nevanethem Pillay (South Africa), Laity Kama (Senegal), and T.H. Khan (Bangladesh) each received the required absolute majority. Three seats remained to be filled.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali today held a meeting to review progress in the Guatemala peace process and to discuss the activities of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). The meeting was attended by Special Political Adviser Rosario Green, Special Envoy Gilberto Schlittler and MINUGUA Director Leonardo Franco, who is currently on mission in New York. The review was a follow-up to the Secretary-General's visit to Guatemala in April.

In the meeting, the Secretary-General reiterated his support for MINUGUA's activities in the verification of human rights and the strengthening of national institutions. He expressed his satisfaction at the progress being made in the talks between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), and his hope that an agreement would be reached shortly on socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali reiterated his willingness to assist the Guatemalans in their quest for peace. He expressed his appreciation for the support of the international community, particularly that of the Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of

America and Venezuela). He also expressed the hope that Member States would contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Guatemala Peace Process.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to depart later in the day for Houston, Texas, to participate in that city's observation tomorrow of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. He was also scheduled to address the Institute for International Education and the James Baker Institute on Foreign Policy, before returning to Headquarters on Friday.

* * *

The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for four months, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 19 May, he said the referendum could take place early next year if the Mission were allowed to proceed rapidly with the identification of voters. While identification had proved to be a complex and sensitive process, many seemingly insurmountable barriers had been overcome and much had been achieved.

The Secretary-General called on the parties to cooperate with MINURSO so that the identification process could be concluded successfully. Meanwhile, progress must be achieved on other important aspects of the settlement plan. In early July, he would forward to the parties the final text of the code of conduct; in August, he would inform the Council of the progress made on the release of political prisoners; in September, he would make a ruling on the confinement of Frente POLISARIO prisoners. By that time, he should have received confirmation from the Government of Morocco on the arrangements for the reduction of its troops in the Territory.

Monitoring those benchmarks would enable the Security Council to assess the parties' willingness to implement the settlement plan, the Secretary-General continued. By the end of September, he would assess the progress achieved and make recommendations for the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara. In a related development, a spokesman for the Organization today announced that a Council mission would depart for the Territory on 2 June.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed Ambassador Antonio Pedauye of Spain as Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Mr. Pedauye is currently Spain's Ambassador-at-large for the former Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Henryk Sokalski of Poland has been appointed as Civilian Head of Mission of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He is currently the Director and Coordinator for the International Year of the Family at the United Nations Office in Vienna.

In another appointment, the Secretary-General named Khaled Yassir as his Deputy Special Representative for Angola. Mr. Yassir has been Director of the Division for Audit and Management Review of the United Nations Development

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Programme (UNDP) since 1982. The three appointments announced today were at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

* * *

The Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition have extended the current cease-fire agreement for three months through 26 August, a United Nations spokesman announced today. They agreed on the extension at a meeting in Afghanistan, before beginning the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Kazakhstan on Monday.

In a Presidential statement on Friday, the Security Council called on the Tajik parties to extend the cease-fire. It recalled that an extension was necessary for the continuation of United Nations efforts and maintenance of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).

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There have been no new cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever and no increase in the number of deaths in Zaire since 21 May, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It said that one duplicated case had been discounted, giving a revised total of 136 cases and 101 deaths, and that the epidemic remained stable.

WHO reported that active surveillance in Kikwit might reveal a possible source of the epidemic. A previous chain of deaths within one household, which possibly began in December 1994, was now being linked with other cases of haemorrhagic disease and death similar to Ebola haemorrhagic fever.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1901
25 May 1995

## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ NATO aircraft bomb Bosnian Serb ammunition depot after ultimatum for return of heavy weapons to collection points is ignored; United Nations says air strike was restrained and proportional.

+ General Assembly completes election of judges to trial chambers of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda after eight rounds of voting.

+ Secretary-General asks Special Adviser Kittani to review arrangements for Fourth World Conference on Women with Chinese Government.

+ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia concludes ministerial session in Beirut by calling for establishment of technical committees on energy and water resources.

* * *

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft today conducted an air strike against a Bosnian Serb ammunition depot, at the request of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). A United Nations spokesman said that the mission appeared to have been successful and that two bunkers had been destroyed. He noted that the bunkers were part of a large military complex and characterized the air strike as "restrained and proportional".

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had warned the Bosnian parties yesterday that the worsening situation in Sarajevo could not be tolerated. He said the fighting there violated the safe-area and exclusion-zone regimes and endangered the lives of innocent civilians and United Nations personnel. He noted that heavy weapons had been removed from United Nations collection points, and demanded a prompt cease-fire and full compliance with the February 1994 agreement on heavy weapons.

Late yesterday, UNPROFOR Force Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith issued another warning. However, a deadline for compliance with United Nations demands passed without any reaction from the Bosnian Serbs. Lieutenant-General Smith today telephoned the deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, who reportedly said he was aware of the possible consequences of

non-compliance, according to the spokesman. After the air strike, Special Representative Akashi thanked NATO for a well-executed mission.

More than 2,700 firing incidents were reported in Sarajevo yesterday, with numerous heavy weapons violations by both sides. Bosnian Serb tanks were sighted to the north and south of city, one of which fired a phosphorous round.

* * *

The General Assembly today elected Lennart Aspegren of Sweden as judge to the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in an eighth round of balloting. The Assembly yesterday elected Navanethem Pillay of South Africa, Laity Kama of Senegal, T.H. Khan of Bangladesh, Yakov A. Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation and William H. Sekule of Tanzania.

The Tribunal has two trial chambers, each made up of three judges; a five-judge Appeals Chamber, appointed by the President of the Tribunal; a Prosecutor, who will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of international humanitarian law; and a Registry which will be responsible for administering and servicing the Tribunal.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Special Adviser Ismat Kittani to visit China to review arrangements for the Fourth World Conference on Women with the Chinese Government, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Under-Secretary-General Kittani is Chairman of the High-level Steering Committee for the Conference, which will take place in September. He is expected to be in Beijing between 6 and 8 June.

* * *

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) today concluded its eighteenth ministerial session in Beirut by calling for the establishment of technical committees on energy and water resources. The committees would help to formulate priorities related to the work programme and medium-term plans of ESCWA, follow up developments in the fields of energy and water resources and in related Commission activities, and follow up international conferences and coordinate relevant regional efforts.

Participating in the session were official delegations from ESCWA's 13 member States. The members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Representatives of United Nations agencies participated as observers.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1902
26 May 1995

## FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council strongly condemns Bosnian Serb shelling of safe areas after attack on Tuzla leaves scores dead; demands immediate release of United Nations personnel detained by Bosnian Serbs.

+ NATO launches second air strike against Bosnian Serb arms depot near Pale; Special Representative Akashi again demands compliance with agreement on heavy weapons and respect for safety of civilians.

+ United Nations and United States are immensely important to each other, Secretary-General tells Baker Institute for Public Policy.

+ UNEP plays vital role in formulating environmental policies and facilitating sustainable development, speakers tell Executive Council.

+ Special Committee on Human Rights in Occupied Territories completes field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

+ UNCTAD to hold meeting on socio-economic situation in least developed countries; issues report on role of tobacco in developing economies.

* * *

The Security Council has strongly condemned the shelling by Bosnian Serbs of safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly an attack on Tuzla which left many civilians dead. In a statement to correspondents by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council demanded the immediate cessation of attacks against the safe areas. It also demanded that the Bosnian Serbs take all measures to ensure full respect of the status of the safe areas. The Council stressed that relevant resolutions must be respected by all.

The Council expressed deep concern at recent totally unacceptable actions by the Bosnian Serbs gravely affecting the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel. It demanded the immediate release of all the

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For information media—not an official record

personnel detained.

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In Bosnia and Herzegovina today, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched another air strike against a Bosnian Serb ammunition depot near Pale, destroying six bunkers. NATO aircraft destroyed two bunkers at the depot yesterday, after the Bosnian Serbs failed to heed United Nations demands for compliance with the 1994 agreement on heavy weapons.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi said he had approved the latest NATO action after Bosnian Serb forces continued to fire weapons within the Sarajevo exclusion zone, including from inside five weapons collection points. He also said that the Bosnian Serb shelling of Tuzla had killed more than 70 people, while an attack on Gorazde had left five dead.

Mr. Akashi stressed that he had no option but to respond to a dangerous situation which threatened the entire peace process. The NATO actions were intended to restore the integrity of the agreement on heavy weapons and respect for the safety of civilians, so that the political process could be resumed. He reminded the parties once again of the extreme gravity of the situation and the urgent need to reject the military option and to resume peaceful dialogue.

A United Nations spokesman this afternoon reported that the Bosnian Serbs had taken eight United Nations military observers hostage in Pale. Meanwhile, eighty peace-keepers were being confined to, or physically restricted at, weapons collection points in Sarajevo. There were unconfirmed reports that three heavy weapons had been removed from one collection point. The spokesman went on to say that cooperation between the United Nations and NATO was extremely successful, including with respect to contingency planning for any withdrawal of peace-keepers from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

The United Nations and the United States share the same goal of a peaceful and stable international order, and are immensely important to each other, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said the United States could work with and through the United Nations to address conflicts requiring international action at an early stage. He made those comments in an address to the Baker Institute for Public Policy in Houston, Texas, yesterday.

America's non-participation in the League of Nations had doomed that Geneva-based world organization to failure, the Secretary-General told the Baker Institute. America's decision to create and support a United Nations had led to the New York-based world Organization of today.

(more)

"The United Nations, so much a dream and creation of the United States, is ready for use in a great common cause -- the cause of peace, development and democracy everywhere," he went on to say. "Let us not turn away from that cause. The United Nations needs your support."

* * *

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a pioneering organization in a vital new field, according to Maurice Strong, UNEP's first Executive Director and Secretary-General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Mr. Strong was one of several guest speakers during the UNEP Executive Council's two-week session in Nairobi, Kenya. He said success in tackling major environmental problems would depend upon what governments did, or failed to do, at the session.

The Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Henrique Cavalcanti, stressed the importance of a strong UNEP, saying it would be impossible to achieve sustainable development without proper environmental policies. As the leading United Nations authority in the field of the environment, UNEP had an irreplaceable role to play in the global effort to achieve sustainable development.

* * *

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories has completed a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Special Committee is mandated to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

Members of the Special Committee said that despite the signing of the Declaration of Principles, support for the peace process would erode without progress on human rights in the occupied territories. The parties concerned must build a true culture of respect for human rights in the occupied territories, so that the people of the region could live together in dignity, peace and mutual respect.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will hold a meeting of least developed countries (LDCs) and donor countries and institutions in Geneva from 29 May to 2 June. The meeting will assess the socio-economic situation in LDCs and make recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action for those countries for the 1990s. It will also act as the preparatory committee for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to review the Programme's implementation, to be held in New York from 26 September to 6 October.

(more)

The United Nations currently identifies 48 countries as LDCs. Their combined population is estimated at 560 million, or one tenth of world's population. Average per capita income in 1993 was $300, compared to more than $1,100 in the developing world as a whole, and $22,000 in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Meanwhile, UNCTAD has issued a report on the role of tobacco in the economies of tobacco-dependent developing countries. The report reviews tobacco production, exports and export earnings by country, and deals with the issue of diversification into alternatives to tobacco cultivation.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1903
30 May 1995

## TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses shock at killing of Bosnian Foreign Minister, stressing need for greatest effort to resolve conflict; to report to Security Council on situation in former Yugoslavia.

+ UNPROFOR says 330 to 375 United Nations personnel are being held or restricted by Bosnian Serbs; reports sightings of Bosnian Serb troops wearing French uniforms.

+ Security Council extends UNDOF mandate until 30 November; says situation in Middle East will remain potentially dangerous until comprehensive settlement is reached.

+ Security Council, expressing concern about implementation of settlement plan for Western Sahara, decides to send mission to region; extends MINURSO mandate until 30 June.

+ United Nations sends disaster assessment and coordination team to Sakhalin to help evaluate humanitarian needs in wake of earthquake.

+ High-level Committee on Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries begins ninth session at Headquarters.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep shock and sadness at the death of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubjankic. Dr. Ljubjankic and his party were killed on Sunday, when the helicopter in which they were travelling was shot down near Bihac. The Secretary-General offered his condolences to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the bereaved families. He said the deaths underscored the importance that all parties exercise the greatest effort to solve the Bosnian conflict.

The Secretary-General met yesterday with his senior advisers to discuss his latest report to the Security Council on the situation in the former Yugoslavia. They also discussed the situation on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with particular reference to the hostage situation. A new draft

of the report was being worked on today. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General was closely involved in high-level diplomatic activity aimed at obtaining the release of the United Nations personnel held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs.

* * *

Some 330 to 375 United Nations personnel are currently being held or restricted by the Bosnian Serbs, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He said the total varied from hour to hour as additional personnel were detained or others were released. Some were being held under guard, while others were surrounded and could not leave their posts, but were not in captivity.

The spokesman said 33 United Nations armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles had been stolen by the Bosnian Serbs. He noted that there had been three sightings of Bosnian Serbs wearing French uniforms and driving stolen French armoured personnel carriers.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs had deployed some heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo and had prepared three artillery positions at one weapons collection point. However, the situation in the city and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina was relatively quiet.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for six months to 30 November. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria. The Council called on the parties to immediately implement resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement in the Middle East. It also asked the Secretary-General to report at the end of the mandate period on the development in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 996 (1995).

In a complementary statement by its President, the Council said that despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East continued to be potentially dangerous. It was likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

* * *

On Friday, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 June. It expressed concern about obstacles to further progress in the implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara, and said it was sending a mission to the region. The Council said it would consider a further extension of the mandate beyond 30 June based both on the report of its mission and the recent report of the Secretary-General. In that report, the Secretary-General requested a

(more)

four-month extension of MINURSO's mandate. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 995 (1995).

The Council underlined the need for the parties to work with MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation. It reiterated its commitment to holding a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the settlement plan which had been accepted by the two parties.

* * *

A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived today in Sakhalin, Russian Federation, which was hit by an earthquake over the weekend. At the request of the Russian authorities, the team will help evaluate humanitarian needs and, if necessary, coordinate assistance. A joint Department of Humanitarian Affairs/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) environment unit is on standby to assist with regard to the ecological aspects of the disaster.

The Russian Ministry for Emergency Management has confirmed that the earthquake caused 218 deaths. It said that more than 500 people had been rescued from collapsed buildings and that more than 300 had been evacuated from the disaster area.

* * *

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) today began its ninth session at Headquarters. The Committee will discuss new directions for TCDC and institutional and funding arrangements to support them. It will also examine the suggestion that greater emphasis be placed on core development issues of special interest to a large number of developing countries.

The Committee will review progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on TCDC in Argentina in 1978. Implementation of the Committee's previous decisions will also be examined. In addition, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will present specific proposals on measures the agency intends to take to further strengthen its support for TCDC.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1904
31 May 1995

## WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says UNPROFOR's current role is untenable and must be changed; sets out four options for Council to consider; focus should remain provision of humanitarian aid and promotion of peace process.

+ UNPROFOR reports no significant change in number of personnel detained or restricted by Bosnian Serbs; situation in Sarajevo remains tense after early outbreak of fighting.

+ Security Council says six-member mission will leave New York for Western Sahara region this weekend.

+ Disarmament Commission concludes annual session by adopting final report to General Assembly; fails to reach agreement on guidelines for nuclear disarmament or review of Third Disarmament Decade.

+ Committee on Relations with Host Country considers proposals by Secretary-General for solving problem of diplomatic indebtedness.

+ UNEP Governing Council concludes eighteenth session in Nairobi by adopting programme of work for 1996-1997.

+ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice begins two-week session in Vienna.

+ Subcommittee on Small Territories hears DPI report on dissemination of decolonization information.

+ United Nations University Press to launch publication on policies of Member States toward Organization.

* * *

The current role of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is untenable and must be changed, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, he said the

For information media—not an official record

Organization's primary task in Bosnia and Herzegovina should remain that of delivering humanitarian aid and helping to create conditions on the ground favouring the peace process.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations faced a truly defining moment in its reaction to events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would have a decisive effect on its standing for many years to come. Three inter-connected objectives represented the Organization's very essence: the quest for peace, the protection of human life and the rejection of the culture of death. He put forward four principal options for consideration by the Council.

The first option was the withdrawal of UNPROFOR, but the Secretary-General said that would be tantamount to the abandonment of the Bosnian people. It would also be an admission of the Organization's inability to help resolve a war in which force had been used to try to change the ethnic map of a Member State and in which the parties had been guilty of attacks against civilians and other atrocities.

The second option was retention of the status quo. However, that would further erode the ability of the United Nations to provide humanitarian aid and achieve diplomatic progress. It would also bring further United Nations casualties and more damage to the Organization's credibility.

The third option was to change UNPROFOR's mandate and to provide the additional force necessary to implement it. However, the use of such force would not be appropriate for a peace-keeping operation like UNPROFOR. In that event, UNPROFOR should be replaced with a multinational force, authorized by the Council, but under the command of countries contributing troops to it, as was the case in Somalia and Haiti.

The fourth option was to revise the mandate to include only those tasks which a peace-keeping operation could realistically be expected to carry out in the circumstances prevailing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The peace-keeping operation would seek to negotiate agreements between the parties and monitor them. It would maintain a presence in the safe areas but not use force to defend them. It would support humanitarian operations, and would use force only in self-defence. That option might require some reinforcement initially, but would eventually lead to a reduction in the deployment.

* * *

The situation in Sarajevo remained tense today, following an outbreak of fighting around the Jewish Cemetery this morning, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said there had been no significant change in the number of United Nations personnel detained or restricted by the Bosnian Serbs. Meanwhile, there were fresh sightings of Bosnian Serb troops wearing United Nations uniforms and driving stolen vehicles.

The spokesman said the Bosnian Serbs had refused to give clearance for a flight to evacuate wounded French soldiers from Sarajevo. However, the peace-keepers were later evacuated by road as their wounds were not

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life-threatening. There were no major incidents elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina, although the Bosnian Serbs took over two more United Nations observation posts in the Gorazde area. That left only one post there occupied by United Nations personnel, in an area controlled by the Bosnian Government.

* * *

The Security Council has said that its mission to the Western Sahara region will leave New York on 3 June for a visit lasting around six days. The mission will be composed of six members of the Council: Argentina, Botswana, France, Honduras, Oman and the United States. In a Presidential statement on Friday, the Council had expressed concern about obstacles to further progress in the implementation of the Settlement Plan for Western Sahara, saying it would send a mission to the region.

In a note issued yesterday, the Council set out the mission's terms of reference: to impress upon the parties the necessity of cooperating fully with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in implementing all aspects of the Plan, and to underline the fact that any further delay would put MINURSO's future at risk; to assess progress and identify problems in the identification process, bearing in mind the deadline for the referendum of January 1996; and to identify problems in other areas relevant to the fulfilment of the Plan, including the reduction of Moroccan troops, the confinement of Polisario troops, the release of political prisoners and detainees, the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of refugees.

* * *

The Disarmament Commission has concluded its annual session at Headquarters by adopting its final report to the General Assembly. That report included the reports of the Commission's three working groups. The Commission concluded its consideration of international arms transfers with agreement on a structure for, and the scope of, guidelines for that area. However, there was no agreement on guidelines for nuclear disarmament or for the review of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade.

Speakers expressed disappointment at the lack of concrete results on two of the three issues considered by the Commission. However, the Chairman of the working group on the review of the Third Disarmament Decade said that while its discussions had been inconclusive, a basis for future negotiations had been established.

* * *

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country met yesterday to consider a series of proposals by the Secretary-General on how to solve the problem of diplomatic indebtedness. The representative of the United States told the Committee that a total of 31 permanent missions owed more than $9 million to local creditors. He expressed support for the Secretary-General's

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proposals, which included provisions by which the Legal Counsel would seek explanations from the mission concerned if a matter involved a Permanent Representative.

In his report to the Committee, the Secretary-General said the problem of diplomatic indebtedness was a matter of significant concern to the United Nations. Non-payment of debts reflected badly on the diplomatic community and tarnished the Organization's image. He stated, however, that the vast majority of the 184 missions and 1,800 diplomats in New York honoured their obligations.

* * *

The eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was a turning point for the Programme, according to Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell. She said the two-week session in Nairobi was remarkable for the level of consensus achieved. However, UNEP could only build on its achievements if it received the necessary environmental and political guidance from Governments, along with adequate and predictable financial support.

The Council adopted a new integrated programme of work for 1996-1997, and a programme budget of $90-$105 million. Issues relating to the revitalization of UNEP's role and functions, and the changes necessary for a more effective implementation of the international environmental agenda dominated the agenda for the session.

* * *

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has begun a two-week session in Vienna. The Commission will consider a wide range of proposals for combating transnational criminality, including trafficking in minors, illegal arms trafficking, smuggling of illegal migrants, corruption of public officials and computer tampering.

The Commission will review progress made on worldwide surveys of crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems, as well as initiatives to acquire and process crime-related data. It will also look at the technical cooperation and advisory services of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) issued 62 press releases and produced 24 radio programmes on decolonization issues during the last year, a DPI representative has told the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance. Mustapha Tlili said that the 68 United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) had also continued to distribute DPI information material during April and May. He made those comments yesterday, as the Subcommittee considered the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization.

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The United Nations University Press will launch a new publication, "The United Nations System: The Policies of Member States," in the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium tomorrow. The book is the product of a comparative study of national policies toward the Organization, undertaken by Professor John Trent of the University of Ottawa and two colleagues. It examines the historical development of international organizations, reviews recent proposals for United Nations reform, and considers eight policy case-studies.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1905
1 June 1995

## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnian Serbs continue to detain or blockade 450 United Nations personnel in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina; civilian aid worker taken hostage in Banja Luka.

+ Senior United Nations officials begin two-day meeting at Headquarters to discuss United Nations development activities and related reforms.

+ Secretary-General plans to upgrade United Nations crime and justice programme within two years, Commission on Crime Prevention is told.

+ 351 Uruguayan peace-keepers arrive in Angola; Special Representative meets with Angolan President and UNITA leader to discuss continued implementation of Lusaka Protocol.

+ Special Representative for Burundi briefs Security Council; describes situation in Bujumbura as tense, citing daily reports of armed incidents.

+ Committee on Rights of Child discusses collaboration in human rights field and impact of armed conflict on children.

+ Saad Alfarargi of Egypt appointed as Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of Programme's Regional Bureau for Arab States.

* * *

Bosnian Serb forces today continued to detain or blockade around 450 United Nations personnel in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. He stressed that they should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Some 200 of the United Nations personnel were being detained, while the remaining 250 were being blockaded, the spokesman continued. The latter

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For information media—not an official record

figure included 45 Canadian peace-keepers who had been resupplied despite the restrictions. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs took a non-military United Nations relief worker hostage in the Banja Luka area.

The spokesman said 1,000 firing incidents had been recorded in Sarajevo over the previous 24 hours. One French peace-keeper suffered minor injuries after being hit by fragments. There was also fresh fighting between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb forces on the east bank of the Drina River in Gorazde.

* * *

Senior United Nations officials from various departments, programmes, funds and regional commissions have begun a two-day meeting at Headquarters to discuss issues related to the Organization's development activities. The meeting was chaired today by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator James Gustave Speth. It will be joined by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali tomorrow morning.

Participants are reviewing progress achieved in the reform agenda set out in the Secretary-General's recommendations on "An agenda for development". He proposed improvements in United Nations development activities "not because these efforts are failing but because they are succeeding". He stated that he would convene frequent meetings of all senior officials in the economic and social sector to improve overall programme coordination and policy coherence within the Organization.

The meeting underway provides an opportunity for senior officials to discuss preparations for this year's substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, including the triennial policy review of United Nations operational activities for development. Attention will be paid to the results of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in Copenhagen. Participants will also hear a report on the progress achieved in implementing the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) initiative on Africa.

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The Secretary-General plans to upgrade the United Nations crime and justice programme within the next two years, according to Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna. He made that announcement to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which has begun a two-week session in Vienna.

The proposal, contained in a report before the Commission, calls for upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat to a division. It will mean asking the General Assembly to provide additional resources to enable the Commission to help States combat new forms of trans-border crime and generally strengthen the rule of law worldwide.

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Mr. Giacomelli urged the 40-member Commission to translate into reality the consensus achieved at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. He served as Secretary-General of the Congress, which took place in Cairo from 29 April to 8 May.

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Some 350 Uruguayan peace-keepers have arrived in Luanda, Angola, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He said the rest of the Uruguayan contribution to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) was expected to arrive tomorrow. An Indian battalion would arrive in early July, to be followed by a Zimbabwean battalion later in the month. A Romanian field hospital was already operational in the Angolan capital.

The spokesman pointed out that the parties must continue to implement the Lusaka Protocol for the deployment of UNAVEM III to continue. He stressed the importance of disarmament, disengagement of troops, observation of the cease-fire and demining activities. In that regard, Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye had had meetings earlier this week with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi.

The Joint Commission would meet tomorrow to discuss, in particular, the reopening of roads and the free movement of goods, the spokesman added.

* * *

Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah today briefed the Security Council on the situation in Burundi, according to a United Nations spokesman. He described the situation as tense, with daily reports of armed incidents in parts of Bujumbura following the recent three-day strike there.

The spokesman noted that a high-level Organization of African Unity (OAU) mission was currently in Bujumbura. That mission was chaired by the Secretary-General of the OAU.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Child has held an exchange of views with various United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations on improving collaboration in the field of human rights. As the Committee continued its ninth session in Geneva this week, it also held a discussion with the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission of Human Rights on Rwanda and on child prostitution.

The Committee has also been dealing with the impact of armed conflict on children. Graca Machel, Chairman of a team studying that topic, said children were no longer simple victims of conflicts -- they were weapons of war, actors in wars and the adults who manipulated them should be ashamed. She said the use of children in war was getting out of control, citing her recent field visit to Rwanda.

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Saad Alfarargi of Egypt has been appointed as Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States. Mr. Alfarargi is currently Egypt's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs. He will assume his new duties in August.

Mr. Alfarargi served as Egypt's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva from 1983 to 1987. He was Senior Political Officer, Centre for Disarmament, in the Department for Political and Security Council Affairs from 1977 to 1979.

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UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1906
2 June 1995

## F R I D A Y  H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General expresses extreme concern at failure of Bosnian Serbs to release all United Nations hostages; sends Senior Adviser to Zagreb to assess situation.

+ UNPROFOR says it cannot confirm ICRC report that Bosnian Serbs intend to release hostages; NATO aircraft reportedly shot down over northern Bosnia.

+ United Nations launches revised inter-agency appeal for $470 million for humanitarian operations in former Yugoslavia.

+ European Union Troika, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Co-Chairmen of International Conference condemn violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Tajik parties conclude fourth round of talks in Almaty by reaffirming three-month extension of cease-fire.

+ First All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue to be held in Schlaining, Austria, from 3 to 5 June.

+ Economic and Social Council acts on HIV/AIDS Programme and forests panel at resumed organizational session.

+ DPA's Security Council Affairs Division must be given adequate staffing and resources, Council members say.

+ Subcommittee on Small Territories observes Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Colonial Territories.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed extreme concern at the failure of the Bosnian Serb authorities to release unconditionally all United Nations personnel being held hostage. He said there was a pressing need to restore the freedom

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For information media—not an official record

of movement of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), to end the fighting in Sarajevo and other safe areas, and to reconnect utility supplies to the capital.

The Secretary-General announced that he was sending Senior Adviser Chinmaya Gharekhan on an urgent mission to Zagreb tonight. Mr. Gharekhan would assess the situation and support Special Representative Yasushi Akashi's efforts to find solutions to the problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) representative in Pale today reported that the Bosnian Serbs intended to release detained United Nations personnel within a day or two. However, a United Nations spokesman said the Force had received no direct communication to that effect from the Bosnian Serb authorities, and expressed caution regarding the report. There was a direct line between the authorities in Pale and UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, but it had not been used, he noted.

The spokesman confirmed that UNPROFOR had been holding relatively low-level talks with the Bosnian Serb military authorities to press its demand for the release of the detainees. He stressed that the United Nations was not negotiating with the Bosnian Serbs as that demand was unconditional.

Meanwhile, a United States F-16 jet was reportedly shot down by a surface-to-air missile over northern Bosnia this morning. However, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) did not confirm the cause of the crash. The aircraft was on a surveillance mission as part of Operation "Deny Flight", and not an attack mission.

The situation in Sarajevo remained tense, although the number of firing incidents had decreased from 1,000 yesterday to 700 today, the spokesman continued. UNPROFOR peace-keepers and vehicles were again targeted by the Bosnian Serbs, including attacks on a French observation post and two British armoured personnel carriers.

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The United Nations has launched a revised consolidated inter-agency appeal for $470 million for humanitarian operations in the former Yugoslavia. Some 44 per cent of that target had been met as

of 28 April, leaving a shortfall of $261 million for the rest of the year.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the lead humanitarian agency in the former Yugoslavia, with responsibility for the general mobilization of resources and the coordination of aid activities. The agency has so far received $104 million of the $172 million it needs this year.

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The escalation of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been condemned by the Troika of the European Union (represented by France, Spain and Germany); the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States; and the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. At a meeting at The Hague on 29 May, they also condemned any hostile act against United Nations personnel. They said that they held the Bosnian Serb authorities accountable for the security of United Nations personnel taken hostage. They also warned that the authorities would bear the consequences if the hostages were not released.

Participants in the meeting strongly urged the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Contact Group plan as a starting-point for negotiations. They agreed on the need to reinforce UNPROFOR, and to give a new impetus to the diplomatic process. They stressed the need for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to recognize Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the closure of borders to be strengthened. A resolution on sanctions suspension should be finalized in the Security Council, they added.

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The fourth round of inter-Tajik talks has concluded in Almaty, Kazakstan, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He said the Tajik Government and opposition had approved a joint statement reaffirming the three-month extension of the current cease-fire. They had also provided for confidence-building measures relating to prisoners of war and detainees, and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

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The first All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue will begin tomorrow in Schlaining, Austria. It is scheduled to last until 5 June. The Dialogue has been facilitated by the Secretary-General.

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While the Dialogue will not address the political status of East Timor -- an issue to be tackled at Ministerial talks -- it should provide a forum for a free and informal exchange of views. The Dialogue will also provide the Secretary-General with ideas for possible discussion at the next round of Ministerial talks in Geneva on 8 July.

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The Economic and Social Council has taken decisions concerning the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS, the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on forests, and preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. It took those actions, among others, at a resumed organizational session yesterday.

The Council elected as members of the Joint Programme's Coordination Board the following countries: Algeria, Australia, Barbados, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, France, India, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States. It also approved the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommended the establishment of the panel to formulate coordinated proposals for action on forests.

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The members of the Security Council have expressed concern about the staffing of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 31 May, they called for adequate staffing to enable the Council and its committees to function effectively. The members noted that the Council's workload had increased enormously in recent years. Meanwhile, the resources and services made available to the Council in discharging its duties had hardly increased, and had on occasion decreased.

In another development, the Council said the practice of hearing comments by States and organizations concerned during closed meetings of sanctions committees on issues arising from implementation of sanctions regimes should continue. In a note by its President dated 31 May, the Council said the existing procedures followed by those committees should also continue to be respected.

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Hundreds of millions of people gained their freedom and independence in the surge of decolonization following the creation of the United Nations, according to the Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization, Eugene Pursso. He made that comment to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, as it observed the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of all Colonial Territories.

Mr. Pursso went on to say that the task of decolonization remained unfinished and required further determined action. Some people -- mostly those in small island Non-Self-Governing Territories -- had not been able to exercise their right to self-determination.

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